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37. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the principal object includes at least one identity claim object, and the principal object and identity claim object expose application programming interfaces that have the findbyidentity method.

38. (New) The method of claim 5 further comprising:  
storing in the principal data store, principal data including at least one identity claim for every principal known to the computer system.

39. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the principal object includes at least one identity claim object, and the principal object and identity claim object expose application programming interfaces that have the findbyidentity method.

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40 ~~38.~~ (New) The method of claim 6 further comprising:  
storing in the principal data store, principal data including at least one identity claim for every principal known to the computer system.

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41 ~~39.~~ (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the principal object includes at least one identity claim object, and the principal object and identity claim object expose application programming interfaces that have the findbyidentity method.

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42 ~~40.~~ (New) The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
storing in the principal data store, principal data including at least one identity claim for every principal known to the computer system.

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43 ~~41.~~ (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the principal object includes at least one identity claim object, and the principal object and identity claim object expose application programming interfaces that have the findbyidentity method.

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44 ~~42.~~ (New) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

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Application No. 10/693,097

storing in the principal data store, principal data including at least one identity claim for every principal known to the computer system.

45 ~~43.~~ (New) The computer program product of claim 17, further comprising:

independently selecting a property from the principal data to be an identity claim, the property uniquely identifying the principal and distinguishing it from all other principals known to the computer system.

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